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NEWS RELEASE

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Memorial Service for Retired Justice Wes Walker on Friday, December 4

San Francisco—A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. on Friday, December 4, 2009, at the Robert Mondavi Winery in Oakdale for retired Court of Appeal Justice Herbert Weston Walker, who died at his home in Napa on October 28. He was 76 years of age.

A third-generation Californian, Justice Walker's legal career spanned 42 years. He was an attorney in Northern and Southern California, a state trial court judge in Napa County, and an associate justice of the Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, based in San Francisco.

He was appointed to the Superior Court of Napa County in 1985, where he served as presiding judge (two terms, 1987–1988 and 1990–1991), presiding criminal and juvenile court judge (1988–1989), and presiding judge of the appellate department (1986–1987, 1990–1993). As a superior court judge, he authored the Napa County Rules for Administration of Civil Litigation on delay reduction, which he also administered. The rules helped the court achieve a disposition rate of more than 90 percent of all civil cases within one year of filing.

In 1996, Justice Walker was appointed to the Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, Division Three, where he served until his retirement in 2001.

Before joining the bench, Justice Walker was in private law practice, specializing in business, real property, and construction law. He was senior partner at Dickenson, Peatman & Fogarty in Napa (1980–1985) and a sole practitioner in Newport Beach (1978–1980). He worked his way up from associate to senior and managing partner at Rutan & Tucker in Santa Monica from 1960 to 1978. While at Rutan & Tucker, he served

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part time as city prosecutor in Cypress and La Palma (1959–1965). He began his career as a deputy county counsel in Los Angeles County (1958–1959).

Justice Walker was a trial court seminar leader for the California Judicial College and also chaired the Judicial Council's Advisory Committee on Court Records and Management. He was a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates for many years, the California Judges Association, the Cow County Judges Association, and the Napa County Bar Association.

He received his juris doctorate in 1958 from the University of Southern California Law School and was admitted to the bar in January 1959.

An accomplished photographer and vintner, Justice Walker published his photographs of landscapes and vineyards in books and calendars. He published three books: *Hidden Napa Valley* in 2004, *Hidden Sonoma* in 2006, and *Tuscan Country* in 2007.

Justice Walker is survived by his wife, Marsha Johnston of Napa, six children, 14 grandchildren, and one greatgrandchild. In lieu of flowers, his family encourages donations to the Melanoma Research Foundation, 170 Township Line Road, Building B, Hillsborough, New Jersey 08844.

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